

Serial No. 10/088,732

Art Unit: 1617

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 8, and ending on page 5, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

Hydroxycarboxylic acid partial esters are known ~~nonionic~~ anionic surfactants which are available on an industrial scale and which are often used, for example, as food-grade emulsifiers. The substances which form component (b) are preferably esters of hydroxycarboxylic acids containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, especially esters of hydroxycarboxylic acids selected from the group consisting of lactic acid, tartaric acid, malic acid and citric acid and self-condensation products thereof. The partial esters are anionic surfactants, i.e. compounds which still contain at least one free carboxylic group. Accordingly, they may be acidic esters or neutralization products thereof. The partial esters are preferably present in the form of their alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, ammonium, alkyl ammonium, alkanolammonium and/or glucammonium salts. The esters are also preferably derived from fatty alcohols containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms. Accordingly, typical examples are hydroxycarboxylic acid partial esters based on caproic alcohol, caprylic alcohol, 2-ethylhexyl alcohol, capric alcohol, lauryl alcohol, isotridecyl alcohol, myristyl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, palmitoleyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, isostearyl alcohol, oleyl alcohol, elaidyl alcohol, petroselinyl alcohol, linolyl alcohol, linolenyl alcohol, elaeostearyl alcohol, arachyl alcohol, gadoleyl alcohol, behenyl alcohol, erucyl alcohol and brassidyl alcohol and technical mixtures thereof. Hydroxycarboxylic acid partial esters based on technical coconut fatty alcohols are preferably used. However, oxoalcohols, such as Neodols (Shell), may also be used. In addition, preparations containing as component (b) esters of hydroxycarboxylic acids with fatty alcohols of which the alk(en)yl group corresponds to that of the alk(en)yl oligoglycosides are particularly preferred. Monoesters and/or diesters of tartaric acid with C₁₀₋₁₈ fatty alcohols have also proved to be particularly advantageous in terms of foaming behavior and compatibility. Finally, the preparations may contain the alkyl and/or alkenyl oligoglycosides and hydroxycarboxylic

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acid partial esters in a ratio by weight of 1:99 to 99:1, preferably 5:95 to 95:5, more preferably 10:90 to 90:10, most preferably 25:75 to 75:25 and, in one most particularly preferred embodiment, 40:60 to 60:40. The preparations are generally present in the form of aqueous solutions or pastes which have a solids content (corresponding to the active substance content or to the nonaqueous component) of 5 to 50, preferably 10 to 35 and more particularly 15 to 25% by weight.